

Minutes of the St. Michael & All Angels Vestry Meeting
April 18, 2016

Meeting convened at 6:30 pm.

Present: Rector Kevin Huddleston; Sr. Warden David Wiggins; Jr. Warden Bob Carlson; Clerk Lindsay Mohn; Lindsey Hill; Leta Anderson; Ronda Barker; David Schlomer; Bob Skaggs; Scott Schaefer; Stephanie Stratemeier; Dahl Metters; Damon Matthew

Absent: Treasurer Win Zoellner; Allie Marquis; Debbie Treglia; Mike Meng

Guest: Father John Goddard

The meeting opened with a team building exercise led by Ms. Anderson. Next, the group watched a short video which prompted discussion about meaningful relationships.

Ms. Hill led the devotional.

There was no physical financial report this month, as Mr. Zoellner and Parish Accountant Liz Beedle are working on a format in which to report monthly financials. However, Father Huddleston told the Vestry that expenses and income were on track for the month. No Finance Committee meeting was held this month. Their committee has decided to meet on an as needed basis. They plan to meet once in the summer, and then monthly during the fall. Mr. Skaggs expressed discomfort with not having financial statements to review. After some discussion, it was clarified that although the Finance Committee may not meet each month, the Treasurer intends to provide physical copies of the financial report on a monthly basis.

Father Huddleston introduced Reverend John Goddard to the Vestry. Father Huddleston has realized that there is too much for him to manage in the absence of a Parish Administrator. Father Goddard, being aware of this information, has volunteered to take on that position on a part-time basis. Father Goddard has a great deal of experience in various positions within the Episcopal Church, and has also served as Parish Administrator of a large Roman Catholic parish. Father Goddard spoke to the Vestry about his skills, saying that Stewardship and Accountability are his main strengths. He has noticed errors in the bulletin and elsewhere, and feels this looks unprofessional. He is detail oriented in his work. The Vestry expressed several concerns. One was that the job might require more than 20 hours per week. Father Goddard assured them he could do the job in that amount of time. A further concern was the funding of the position. Father Huddleston replied that there was not only a budget surplus at this time, but that some special financial gifts had been received recently which would allow funding of the position through the end of this year. Father Goddard spoke up to say that he only intends to take on the position for six months at first, with a review at that time in the event he is willing to consider working into a seventh month and perhaps beyond. Father Goddard described his leadership style as 'collegial', and also told the Vestry that he is familiar with 'Church Windows', which is a critical addition to the staff's skill set. Mr. Skaggs then moved that the Vestry authorize funding of this part-time position for 6 months. Ms. Barker seconded the motion. There was additional discussion concerning the fact that the parish had been informed at the Annual Meeting that this position would not be filled after Mr. Albrecht's retirement. Father Huddleston said he had believed that was possible at the time, but has realized there is too much work for him to add to his responsibilities as Rector. That said, the motion was taken to a vote, and passed unanimously. Father Goddard left the meeting at this time.

Senior Warden Wiggins had nothing to report.

Junior Warden Carlson reported that the night sexton position needs to be filled in some way. Head Sexton Jerry Kirkwood will be interviewing candidates as well as considering the use of a cleaning service. The choir loft and garden lighting projects are still in progress, but the adult classroom has been completed.

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes, so they were accepted as presented.

The Vestry then began a discussion about the potential for starting a small group ministry at the parish. In preparation for this discussion, Ms. Barker read the book 'Sticky Church' by Larry Osborne. Some of the key points she shared

were that the church will grow through the 'front door' but the 'back door' needs to be closed. That is, the church needs to make it a priority to take care of its current membership. The small group format used in this book was called 'Affinity', which was described as being driven by individual interests. The small groups were instructed to listen to the week's sermon and then respond to a series of questions. There are also a social and a refreshment component of the group method, but the unifying theme was the sermon study. Their groups meet for two ten week sessions per year, taking the summer off. Ms. Hill read the book 'Creating Community' by Andy Stanley. The tenets of their formation were 1) People need community; 2) Leaders need clarity of mission and direction; 3) The church needs a strategy; 4) Simplicity is critical to the journey; and 5) The process needs to be realistic. They used three descriptions of how to engage parishioners. One is the 'Living Room' concept (Parish Hall centric), one is called 'Group Link' which holds four big events per year and segregates groups by age and geography and the last is called 'Starting Point', which is similar to our New Member formation. After some discussion, it was agreed that a committee will be formed to pursue the viability of doing a small group ministry at STMAA, either based on one of the two books reviewed, or on some other format to be determined. Vestry members were encouraged to send Father Huddleston recommendations of individuals who might be appropriate to participate on this committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Mohn
Clerk of the Vestry